Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Kerala	44	67	141
Maharashtra	529	1534	2570
Madhya Pradesh	15	36	50
Orissa	53	89	200
Punjab	8	15	50
Rajasthan	3	15	30
Tamilnadu	748	1874	2956
Uttar Pradesh	674	1220	1660
West Bengal	96	150	250
Total	6300	11607	20051

Internet use in the country

2665. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage internet services in order to promote the Information Technology in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the big cities of Rajasthan and Orissa proposed to be linked by an International Gate-way Hub;

(c) by when approval is likely to be accorded by Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of Computer Information Centres set up till date by Government in each State, State-wise, indicating the funds allocated to each Centre?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For Rajasthan and Orissa, international connectivity through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) International Gate- ways at Delhi. Bangalore, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Pune with 34 Mbps connectivity is provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). No international gateway has been planned in Rajasthan and Orissa by BSNL. However, six other Internet Service Providers have been given in-principle clearance for setting up of international gateways for internet at Jaipur, Alwar, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur in Rajasthan as well as at Bhubaneswar in Orissa.

(d) There is no programme to set up Computer Information Centre. The Ministry of Information Technology is, however, implementing a scheme for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 blocks headquarters of seven North-East States and Sikkim at sites selected by the State Governments. Thirty CICs have been set up as a pilot project during 2000 in the North-East region at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores, which includes maintenance and operational costs of CICs for an initial five year period. The Statewise location of thirty CICs is given in the Statement.

(*see* below). As the project is being implemented as a composite one, no Statewise/ CIC wise allocation of funds have been made.

Statement

State-wise location of Community Information Centres

State	District	Block
Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	1. Itanagar
		2. Doimukh
Assam	Nagaon	1. Barhampur
		2. Batadrava
		3. Binakandi
		4. Dalonghat
		5. Dhalpukhuri
		6. Jugijan
		7. Juria
		8. Kaliabor
		9. Kathiatoli
		10. Khagarijan
		11. Lowkhowa
		12. Pachim Kaliabar
		13. Pakhimoria
		14. Raha
		15. Rupahihat
Manipur	Imphal East	1. Imphal East-I
		2. Imphal East-II
Meghalaya	Ri Bhoi	1. Umsning
	East Khasi Hills	2. Mylliem
Mizoram	Aizwal District	1. Tlangnuam
		2. Aibawk
Nagaland	Kohima	1. Kohima
		2. Jakhama
Tripura	West Tripura	1. Khowai
	District	2. Bishalgarh
		3. Mandai
Sikkim	East District	1. Gangtok
		2. Namchi